



Minutes Desert Conservation Commission October 5, 2021

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on December 7, 2021, 3:30 p.m., Meeting held virtually via Cisco WebEx Events and in person at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd., 2nd Floor.

Members Present:

Shereen Lerner – Chair
Kimberly Gaffney-Loza – Vice Chair
Laura Stewart
Donald Burt
Erika Acorn (Virtual)
Jane Neuheisel
Brian Farling

Members Absent:

Ricardo Juan Leonard
Aireona Raschke

City Staff Present:

Craig Hayton, Staff Liaison - Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation
Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant – Community Services Administration
Julie Hietter, Community Services Administration Manager

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Chair Shereen Lerner.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

There was a Motion made by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to approve the Oct. 5, 2021 meeting minutes.

Seconded: Brian Farling

Decision: Motion Approved, 7-0

Ayes: Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Laura Stewart, Donald Burt, Erika Acorn and Brian Farling

Nays: n/a

Abstain: n/a

Absent: Ricardo Juan Leonard and Aireona Raschke

Agenda Item 3 – Keep Tempe Beautiful Introduction

Agenda Item 4 – Annual Report

Craig Hayton presented the update draft 2021 Annual Report. There was a Motion made by Don to approve the 2021 Annual Report.

Seconded: Jane

Decision: Motion Approved, 7-0

Ayes: Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Laura Stewart, Donald Burt, Erika Acorn and Brian Farling

Nays: n/a

Abstain: n/a

Absent: Ricardo Juan Leonard and Aireona Raschke

Agenda Item 5 – Outgoing Commission Member

Shereen Lerner thanked Brian Farling for his service to the commission.

Agenda Item 6 – 2022 Calendar & Advisory Commission Chair/Vice Chair Officers

Proposed dates: Feb. 1, April 5, June 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 20 and Dec. 6.

There was a Motion made by Donald to approve the 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Advisory Commission Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza of and Vice Chair of Erika Acorn officers.

Seconded: Laura Stewart

Decision: Motion Approved, 7-0

Ayes: Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Laura Stewart, Donald Burt, Erika Acorn and Brian Farling

Nays: n/a

Abstain: n/a

Absent: Ricardo Juan Leonard and Aireona Raschke

Agenda Item 7 Commission Goals & Budgetary Input

Craig Hayton provided a summary of the work by the Commission to further develop their goals. Shereen indicated we need to further clarify goal four further.

- FY22 Capital and Operating Budgets
- FY 23 Budget Planning Process
- Prioritize sub-goals (4)
- Refine goals 1-3

Desert Conservation Commission Goals:

1. Identify and establish partnerships.

- Historic Preservation
- Audubon Bird Society- (What is in the preserve)
- Service and Rotary Clubs/Organizations (Kiwanis)
- Tempe Chamber (business community)
- Tempe Leadership/Tempe Cares
- ASU (present in preserve)
- SRP (present in preserve)
- Sustainability Commission
- Arizona Valley Forward

- Churches (help with homelessness)
- Care 7
- School and Education Programs
- Transportation Commission
- Volunteers – (Site Steward Program, Keep Tempe Beautiful)
- Recreation community

2. Increase awareness through education.

- Have Resolution R2021.08 spark ideas
- Stewardship idea
- Information in water bill
- Loma del Rio needs work for education (signage is old and readable)
- Riparian areas
- Interruptive programs – Preserve Manager
- Tempe 11 (suggest different programs)
- Maps that outlined and described the parameters of the preserve, connections points or links off the maps to other areas
- Technology - such as the use of cell phones
- Hike into history
- Historical and traditional uses of area and honor those uses
- Data gathered to learn about native plants, species. How we conserve and remove the ones that are not native. Why native plants are so important.

3. Participate in planning and design efforts.

- Include recreation community
- Identify preserve users
- Tribal/indigenous communities
- Neighborhood associations
- County island community
- Parks police
- Parks maintenance
- Salt River Project – SRP
- Arizona State University – ASU
- Secondary education

The Commission further discussed goal number four: Identify appropriate uses and prioritize needs to include the following:

- Promote use of native plants and removal of invasive species
- Promote native biodiversity and abundance, for example, through quality habitat
- Encourage cultural use and understanding of native plants and wildlife
- Protect, restore and enhance existing assets (cultural, natural, historical, etc.)
- Promote native biodiversity and abundance of wildlife in the preserve (37.05)
- Add, maintain and update inclusive signage
- Comprehensively map preserves, as needed, for internal and external uses.
- Encourage and support appropriate community volunteer activities

Agenda Item 8 – Hayden Flour Mill

Craig Hayton proposed meeting dates for 2022. The commission will review the dates and provide feedback at the Dec. 7, 2021 meeting. The proposed dates are:

- Feb 1
- April 5
- June 7
- August 2
- October 11 – needs to be modified due to conflict
- December 6

Agenda Item 9 – Operational Items

- Moeur Park ramada project update
- 2022 Stinknet Game Plan
- Preserves Management Plan
- Bike Ramp Discussion

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items

- Hayden Mill Update
- 2022 Commission Calendar
- 2021 Annual Report
- 2022 Commission Officers

Agenda Item –11 Upcoming Public Meetings & Announcements

- Next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at X p.m.

Prepared by: Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant, (480) 858-2215

Reviewed by: Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation,
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